

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 1 are proper for entry after final rejection, in that they serve to place the application in condition for allowance.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 4-6.

Claims 1, 3, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Perrin et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed, especially in view of applicant's present amendments to claim 1.

As indicated in paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner apparently reads claim 1's recitation of a sensing mechanism on Perrin et al.'s sensing means 54, the recitation of a stop arm on Perrin et al.'s "support member 48," and the recitation of a transfer arm on Perrin et al.'s "elongated member 66." As described below, the cited structure of Perrin et al. fails to teach or suggest the invention set forth in claim 1 (and claims 2-14 depending therefrom).¹

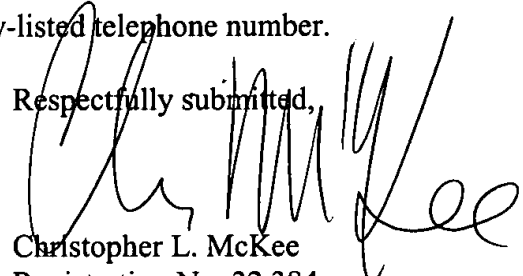
Applicant's present amendments highlight two key distinctions of the invention over the structure of Perrin et al. First, the sensing means 54 of Perrin et al. presses against drive roller 14. On the other hand, as amended, claim 1 recites that the web-sensing member rests, in a web-present position, on a pre-feed portion of sheet material web spaced from the working roll and the main feed roller and extending between the working roll and the main feed roller [nip]. (See,

¹ It is noted that claims 2 and 9-14 have been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. Thus, applicant will not, at this stage, separately argue the patentability of those claims. It is respectfully submitted that upon allowance of claim 1, these withdrawn claims depending from claim 1 should be rejoined and also allowed.

e.g., Fig. 3.) Secondly, claim 1, as amended, recites that the transfer arm, which is held in a set position by the stop arm, is released from the set position to move, independently of the stop arm, to the transfer position upon the stop arm moving into a second position. (See, e.g., page 10, lines 17-19; Fig. 3.) In contrast, to the extent that support member 48 is considered a stop member, it is rigidly attached to elongated member 66 and thus does not permit that member (the alleged transfer arm) to move independently thereof.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better form for allowance, he is respectfully urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,


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